STERN PUBLISHES KENNEDY VERSION

It Prints Letter From Wife That Was Cut by Look

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BONN, Jan. 9—Stern, the West German illustrated magazine, published today the first installment of the uncut version of "The Death of a President" despite a telegraphed appeal by Senator Robert F. Kennedy to delete certain passages that "would cause distress" to the Kennedy family.

The current issue of Stern, shipped to most distributors in the United States by sea and thus unavailable there for up to three weeks, contains about half the material of the first installment in Look magazine. It makes only one major addition to the American magazine's text.

This is a letter written by Mrs. John F. Kennedy to her husband while she was traveling abroad in the summer of 1963. As printed by Stern, the letter reads as follows:

"I miss you very much — which is nice though it is also a bit sad . . .—but then I think how lucky I am to be able to miss you—I know that I always exaggerate—but I feel sorry for everyone else who is married—I realize here so much that I am having something you can never have—the absence of tension—I wish so much that I could give you that—but I can give you that—so I give you every day while I think of you everything I have to give."

In the Look text, the letter is summarized in a sentence. "She told him how much she missed him—of her sorrow that he could not share with her the tension-free atmosphere of the Mediterranean."

Another change occurs in a passage about how Gov. John B. Connally Jr., leader of the conservative wing of the Texas Democrats, hoped to make political capital of President Kennedy's trip at the expense of Senator Ralph W. Yarborough a liberal Democrat with whom the Governor was feuding.

The Look text reads: "Indeed, if he used the occasion to humiliate Yarborough, Texas liberalism might be crushed."

The Stern version reads: "If, however, the opportunity to accuse Yarborough in public presented itself, he would use this opportunity, since that would lead, under certain conditions, to the end of the liberals in Texas."

In all, Stern had been asked to delete about 1,600 words, Henri Nannen, the magazine's editor-in-chief said.

In his answer to Mr. Kennedy's telegram, Mr. Nannen said the passages asked to be deleted "seemed to be private" but were of political importance. As an example, he said, there was "the scene in Fort Worth where the President and his wife were forced by local intrigues to spend their last night separately." This incident is not mentioned in the first Look installment.

Mr. Kennedy said in his telegram to Mr. Nannen:

"I appeal to you on my own behalf and on behalf of Mrs. John F. Kennedy to take all necessary action to conform Stern publication of Manchester installments to final Look text.

"I assure you that there is no material of historical significance in deleted passages, which relate only to personal matters which would cause distress to Mrs. Kennedy and the entire Kennedy family."

The Senator's telegram, made public by Stern, said that Look had offered to make up any financial losses incurred as a result of making the requested cuts.

In rejecting the appeal, Mr. Nannen said that after a final check of the original version of the Manchester book, "we are more than ever convinced that there are no passages which could cause distress to Mrs. Kennedy or her family."

In an editorial in today's issue of Stern, Mr. Nannen repeated his previous contention that the deletions were requested for political reasons, because the material involved was possibly damaging to President Johnson.

He asserted that Mr. Kennedy had Presidential aspirations and that these could be fulfilled only if President Johnson was re-elected in 1968.